

BIGGLESWADE RURAL  
DISTRICT.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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FOR THE YEAR 1926  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH  
AND  
SANITARY INSPECTOR.



To the Chairman and Members  
OF THE  
Biggleswade Rural District Council.



Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of your District for the year 1926.

The report has been drawn up as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 743 dated 20th Dec., 1926.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. H. Chaundler, Clerk to the Council, and his Staff, for the valuable help they have given me, also to your Sanitary Inspector, whose loyal co-operation has been of the greatest assistance.

I have the honour to remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

**H. W. GRATTAN.**

May, 1927.

## 1—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) ... ..	53,627
Population (1926) for Birth Rate ... ..	25,110
Population (1926) for Death Rate ... ..	23,140
Number of inhabited houses (1921) ... ..	5,244
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) ... ..	5,309
Rateable Value ... ..	£141,269
Assessable Value ... ..	£115,574
Sum represented by a penny rate, special ... ..	£331
general ... ..	£481

## 2—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year.

### Population.

The estimated mid-yearly figures are supplied by the Registrar-General, who has reverted again to a separate one for calculations for (a) Birth-rate and (b) Death-rate. The latter is for civilians only, and the former includes the total population of the district, civilian and fighting services, e.g., presumably Henlow Aerodrome.

### Births.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate ...	359	190	169	} Birth Rate 14.81
Illegitimate ...	13	8	5	

The birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1926 was 17.8.

### Deaths.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Civilians only (all causes)	249	118	131	Death Rate 10.76

The death-rate from all causes for the whole of England and Wales for 1926 was 11.6.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth ...	}	From Puerperal sepsis ...	1
		„ Other causes ...	1

25 Deaths (legitimate children 23, illegitimate 2) occurred in infants under one year of age, and the death-rate per 1,000 births was as follows :—

Legitimate ... ..	64.06	} Total ... 67.20.
Illegitimate ... ..	153.84	

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1926 was 70.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	2
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	4
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	2

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

The following table gives the causes of death :—

	Males.	Females.
Enteric Fever ... ..	1	0
Measles ... ..	2	0
Whooping Cough ... ..	3	1
Diphtheria ... ..	1	1
Influenza ... ..	3	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	8	8
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	2	2
Cancer (malignant disease) ... ..	14	22
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	2	1
Diabetes ... ..	0	1
Cerebral Hemorrhage, etc. ... ..	5	15
Heart Disease ... ..	19	30

Arterio-Sclerosis ... ..	8	...	6
Bronchitis ... ..	3	...	7
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	5	...	3
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	1	...	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	1	...	0
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	1	...	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	4	...	2
Puerperal sepsis ... ..	—	...	1
Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... ..	—	...	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth ... ..	7	...	4
Suicide ... ..	2	...	0
Other deaths from violence ... ..	6	...	2
Other defined diseases ... ..	19	...	19
Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	1	...	0
	118		131

### 3. – Infectious Diseases Notified during the year.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-Pox ... ..	0	0	0
Enteric Fever ... ..	2	1	1
Diphtheria ... ..	8	<del>17</del> 8	<del>0</del> 2
Scarlet Fever ... ..	20	17	0
Pneumonia ... ..	26	0	8
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	6	0	0
Puerperal Fever ... ..	2	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	0	0
Erysipelas ... ..	4	0	0
Dysentery ... ..	2	0	0
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	0	0

### Analysis of the Cases Notified under Age-Groups.

Disease.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	3	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	1	3	2	5	4	3	2	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	1	3	2	2	2	1	3	1	1	3	5	2
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
5	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	3	4	—	1	—	1
15	1	3	1	1	1	—	—	—
20	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
25	2	4	—	—	4	2	—	—
35	3	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upward.	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	8	12	7	7	8	8	2	2



The total number of notifications of Tuberculosis was 62, of which 28 had been previously notified.

20% of the deaths from tuberculosis occurred in non-notified cases. These were four in number and included two deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis in infants, one of whom only lived seven days.

The previous year (1925) the percentage of deaths from tuberculosis in non-notified cases was 29.4. It is evident that the situation, as regards notification of this disease, has improved and is more satisfactory.

It would appear that the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis (as judged by the number of new cases notified) is becoming less in the district. 31 new cases were notified during 1925 and 20 in 1926.

Apart from the measures for the control and treatment of tuberculosis which are administered by the County Council, the successful way in which the housing shortage in the district has been dealt with and remedied, has undoubtedly played an important part in reducing the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis.

As regards non-pulmonary tuberculosis, no reduction in the incidence has occurred this year.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision un-impaired	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	at home	in Hospital				
6	4	2	5	1	—	1

## 4.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No serious outbreak of infectious disease occurred in the district during the year. One case of typhoid fever and one of paratyphoid fever were notified in Arlesey.

Of the 20 cases of Scarlet Fever, 6 occurred in Arlesey, 5 in Sandy, 2 in Clifton. The remaining 7 were notified in seven different parishes.

As regards the 8 cases of diphtheria, 3 occurred in Arlesey, 2 in Sandy and 1 in each of the parishes of Dunton, Southill and Meppershall.

With regard to the case of acute anterior poliomyelitis. It appears that the disease was contracted when patient was on a visit in another county. The infectious period had passed when the notification was received. The child was then attending a clinic in a neighbouring town on account of the paralysis.

## Closure of Schools.

One school was closed for epidemic sickness in the district as follows :—

School.	From	To	Disease
Moggerhanger Council School	24/1/26	31/1/26	Influenza.

## 5.—Summary (for Reference) of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the district.

### Professional Nursing in the Home.

None provided by this Authority, but the County Council employ a Health Visitor for certain work.

Some of the parishes employ a parish or district nurse, whose services are of the greatest value.

### Midwives.

Registration and supervision exercised by the County Council.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

None in the district. The nearest available are :

For Maternity, Child Welfare and Tuberculosis : In Biggleswade.

For Venereal Disease : In Bedford.

### Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

Hospital.		Situation.		Authority.		Accommodation.
(1) Tuberculosis	...	Mogerhanger Park	...	County Council	...	—
(2) Maternity	...	None				
(3) Children	...	None				
(4) Isolation	...	Potton Road,	...	Jointly with		
		Biggleswade		Biggleswade U.D.		22 Beds.
(5) Smallpox	...	Langford Road,	...	Jointly with		
		Biggleswade		Biggleswade U.D.		12 Beds.
(6) Mental	...	Stotfold	...	County Council		—
(7) Infirmary	...	London Road,	...	Guardians		—
		Biggleswade				

### Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

None except that provided by the Guardians at the Infirmary, Biggleswade.

### Bedford and District Society for the Welfare of the Blind.

This Society has taken over the care of all the blind persons resident in the area of the Biggleswade Union. The address of the Secretary is 43, St. Cuthbert's, Bedford.

### Ambulance Facilities.

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| (a) For Infectious cases.                  | } | Motor Ambulance stationed at the<br>Isolation Hospital, Potton Road. |
| (b) For Non-infectious and accident cases. |   |  |

## 6—LABORATORY WORK.

### Bacteriological Examinations.

Arrangements are made whereby medical men practising in the district can obtain free Bacteriological Examinations in cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Tuberculosis and Meningitis. These examinations are carried out by the Lister Institute, as the Council does not possess the necessary fitted laboratory.

During the year 73 such examinations were made.

## Provision of Antitoxin.

Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin. It is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Potton Road, Biggleswade, and doctors can obtain it according to their requirements. The earlier this remedy is used in a case of Diphtheria, the greater the chance of recovery. Wherever there is the least suspicion of Diphtheria it is wise to inject Antitoxin, and to submit a swab for examination. If the latter should prove to be negative, no harm is done, and should it on the other hand be positive, much valuable time has been saved.

Tetanus Antitoxin is supplied by the County Council, Shire Hall, Bedford. Arrangements have also been made for the supply of Botulinus Antitoxic Serum, which can be obtained on application from the Medical Officer of Health, Guildhall, Cambridge.

## Public Health Acts Adopted, or in force within the district.

- I. Infectious Diseases (Prevention), Act, 1890, adopted January, 1891.
- II. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III, adopted Sept., 1896.
- III. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. (a) Whole district. Sections 15, 16, 17, 20, 23, 25, 30 & 33 comprised in Part II (streets and buildings).  
Sections 34 to 38 (inclusive) 43, 44, 45, 46 and 49 comprised in Part III (sanitary provisions) and Sections 52, 55, 56, 59, 63, 64, 65 and 66 comprised in Part IV (infectious diseases).  
(b) In Sandy, Section 47 (public conveniences and lavatories) comprised in Part III.

Order of Minister of Health dated 19/7/26 declaring above provisions in force as from 2nd August, 1926.

The consent of the Minister of Health has been applied for with a view to the adoption of the following :—

### IV. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925.

Sections 20, 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 of Part II.  
Sections 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42 and 43 of Part III.  
Sections 45, 46, 47 and 50 of Part IV.

## Bye-Laws or Regulations are in force in respect of :

Slaughter-houses, Common Lodging-houses, Removal of House Refuse, Cleansing of Privies, etc., Prevention of Nuisances, Keeping of Animals, New Streets and Buildings (Structure and Drainage), Cleansing of Footways, Dairies Cowsheds and Milk-shops.

The New Public Health (Meat) Regulations came into force in April, 1925, and have proved of great assistance.

Details of the work carried out under these regulations will be found on page 13.

## 7.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

### Drainage and Sewerage—Arlesey.

One of the most urgent sanitary improvements which are required in the district is the provision of a modern system of drainage for the parish of Arlesey (population in 1921—2,168). The present system of collection and disposal of night soil is very unsatisfactory. Many of the house drains for sullage water are connected with the surface water sewers, which discharge into various ditches which require periodical attention. There is no doubt that the majority of the parishioners are in favour of a modern system of drainage. This question was considered by the Council in 1923, but was not proceeded with for financial reasons.



## Water Supply.

5,501 houses are supplied with water through 2,480 services of the Biggleswade Rural District Council. During the year the services have increased by 93, and the number of houses supplied by ■■■. 137

Owing to the increasing demand for water in the district, the Water Board have decided to install additional pumping plant and a new engine at the pumping station on the Great North Road, with the object of increasing the volume of water raised.

The following table shows the parishes supplied by the Biggleswade Water Board :

	*No. of Houses Census, 1921.	No. of Houses Supplied up to Dec. 31st, 1926	Increase during 1926
Arlesey ... ..	516	572	7
Astwick ... ..	11	13	...
Blunham ... ..	153	121	2
Campton ... ..	100	126	...
Chicksands ... ..	12	3	...
Clifton ... ..	344	331	3
Cockayne Hatley ... ..	23	...	...
Dunton ... ..	109	111	...
Edworth ... ..	20	24	...
Everton ... ..	55	61	61
Eyeworth ... ..	30	22	...
Henlow ... ..	235	347	7
Langford ... ..	318	361	2
Meppershall ... ..	158	28	7
Mogerhanger... ..	94	123	...
Northill ... ..	307	362	2
Potton ... ..	511	525	9
Sandy ... ..	848	895	16
Shefford ... ..	199	232	5
Shefford Hardwicke ... ..	31	38	...
Southill ... ..	271	270	...
Stondon ... ..	14	...	...
Stotfold ... ..	502	484	15
Sutton ... ..	54	51	...
Tomsford ... ..	113	141	...
Warden ... ..	95	52	1
Wrestlingworth ... ..	121	115	...

\*Since the Census was taken in 1921 a large number of houses have been erected by the Council under the Assisted Housing Scheme, particulars of which will be found on page 8.

## Meppershall Water Supply.

Nothing further has been done with reference to the water supply of this village, which obtains its supply from about 41 shallow wells and 1 deep well.

## Meat and Food Inspection.

This is carried out by your Sanitary Inspector who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for this work. A record of the work done and action taken will be found in his report appended hereto.

## 8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

One Medical Officer of Health (part time only).

One Sanitary Inspector for the whole district, who is also Meat and Food Inspector, and undertakes the supervision of new buildings under the Council's Bye-laws.

One Assistant available for outdoor and clerical work.

The present office accommodation provided for the public health staff consists of one room only. The question of additional accommodation is now under consideration by the Council.

## Factories and Workshops.

### 1. Inspections (including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ...	13	...	...
Workshops and Workplaces (including Workshop Laundries)	174	2	...
Total ... ..	197	2	...

### 2. Defects.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Insp'r.	Number of Prosecutions.
Want of Cleanliness ...	1	1	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation ...	1	1	...	...
Total ... ..	2	2	...	...

## 9.—Housing.

The following table shows the number of new houses built by the Council under the Assisted Housing Scheme. These were completed in 1922.

Parish.	Situation of Site.	Area Acres.	No. of Houses	*Type	Weekly Rent.
Arlesey ... ..	Church End ...	4.52	26	3	6/6
	Three Counties ...	5.25	20	1	7/6
Blunham ... ..	Great Barford Road ...	2.08	10	3	6/6
Campton ... ..	...	3.70	26	2	6/6
Clifton ... ..	Broad Street ..	3.50	20	2	7/-
Dunton ... ..	Church End ...	1.80	12	1	7/6
	...	1.50	8	2	6/6
Everton ... ..	...	1.00	6	3	5/6
Henlow ... ..	Cross Roads ...	2.60	14	2	7/-
	Church End ...	2.00	12	1	7/6
Langford ... ..	...	6.96	42	18-1	7/6
Meppershall ...	Village ...	2.90	12	24-2	7/-
	Smarts Lane ..	2.50	14	3	5/6
Mogerhanger ...	...	2.70	14	2	7/-
Northill ... ..	Carpenters Field ...	2.00	10	2	6/6
	Ickwell ...	1.10	6	2	6/6
	Upper Caldecote ...	4.42	24	2	6/6
	Hatch ...	1.17	6	2	7/-
Potton ... ..	Horselow Street ..	4.20	26	3	6/-
	Bury Hill ...	4.62	30	1	8/6
Sandy ... ..	Beeston ...	4.19	20	1	7/6
	Cambridge Road ..	2.08	16	3	6/6
	St. Neots Road ...	4.21	26	1	7/6
	...	6.05	30	1	7/6
Shefford Hardwicke ..	Village ...	3.60	16	1	7/6
Southill ... ..	Stanford ...	2.00	10	1	7/-
	Broom ...	6.37	30	2	6/6
Stotfold ... ..	...	10.84	61	1	7/6
Sutton ... ..	Cross Roads ...	1.45	12	9-1	7/6
	...	...	...	52-2	7/-
Tempsford ... ..	North R., Church End ..	2.15	12	2	7/-
	Station Road ..	2.98	18	2	6/-
Wrestlingworth ...	Eyeworth Road ...	2.00	8	2	6/-
	Hatley End ...	1.91	8	2	6/-
Total ... ..		110.27	611		

\*Type 1 refers to houses with both Bath and W.C. inside.

" 2 refers to houses with either Bath or W.C. inside.

" 3 refers to houses without Bath or W.C. inside.

†Rates are payable in addition.

During the year 58 new dwelling houses have been erected by private enterprise, 53 of which qualified for the Government Subsidy.

Whenever a house becomes vacant, which in my opinion is unfit for habitation, immediate action is taken to prevent the premises being re-occupied.

The following table gives a further summary of Housing work during the year :  
Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total ... ..	58
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme ... ..	0

## 1. Unfit Dwellings Houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	750
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 ... ..	105
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	10
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	394

## 2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officer ... ..	395
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## 3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 ... ..	} NIL.
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit ... ..	
(a) by owners ... ..	
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close ... ..	

### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	108
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied : ... ..	
(a) by owners... ..	74
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—

### C.—Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ..	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	8
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ..	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order ... ..	2

Houses Demolished by Owner after C.O. by Council. No D.O. made ... ..	6
Houses repaired after representation, No C.O. made ... ..	7



# BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Biggleswade Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fifteenth Annual Report of the sanitary and other work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors during the year ending December 31st, 1926.

The total number of inspections made was 4,639 and in connection with 509 premises visited, sanitary defects to the number of 806 were discovered. In each case the necessary action was taken to have the defects remedied.

The practice of intimating by letter to the responsible persons of the existence of sanitary defects has been continued and in the majority of cases this has had the desired effect.

### Summary of Inspections.

Routine and Special Inspections	...	...	1254
Re-visits after order or notice	...	...	867
Visits to works in progress after notice	...	...	159
Visits to new buildings in progress	...	...	649
Housing Inspections	...	...	105
Inspection of Workshops, including bakehouses			197
"    slaughterhouses and foodshops	...	...	1053
"    cowsheds	...	...	173
"    Petroleum Stores	...	...	107
Visits re-infectious disease	...	...	30
Rooms disinfected	...	...	34
Samples of water taken	...	...	11

### Notices Served.

Intimation Notices served 159, dealing with 351 houses.

Statutory Notices served 44, dealing with 108 houses.

### Sanitary Improvements Carried Out after Intimation to Owner or Occupier.

#### Dwelling-Houses.

Roofs and Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	43
Roof guttering repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	16
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	22
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	34
External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	16
Stairs and doors repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Windows repaired or made to open	...	...	...	...	26
Improved lighting by the provision of larger windows	...	...	...	...	4
Firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Rooms cleansed or redecorated	...	...	...	...	18
Water supply laid on	...	...	...	...	10
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisances from dampness abated	...	...	...	...	6
Dirty houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	17



## Drains.

Houses and premises redrained	...	...	...	...	5
Drains unstopped, trapped or repaired	.	...	...	...	44

## Closet Accommodation and Ash Receptacles.

Privies and E.C.'s converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	29
Insanitary privies abolished and pails substituted	...	...	...	...	1
New sanitary pails provided in place of defective ones	...	...	...	...	17
Existing closet apartments repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Insanitary asbpts abolished	...	...	...	...	3
New galvanised iron ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	146
Flushing cisterns provided to W.C.'S	...	...	...	...	70
New W.C.'s erected	...	...	...	...	3
New pedestal W.C. basins fixed	...	..	...	...	6

## Cowsheds.

Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	34
Accumulations of manure removed	...	..	...	...	14
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	2

## Miscellaneous.

Bakehouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	...	...	...	...	22
Nuisances from keeping of animals abated	...	...	...	...	7
Foul ditches cleansed or piped in	...	...	...	...	9

## HOUSING.

105 Inspections were made under the Housing Acts in the following Parishes, viz :—

Arlesey	...	...	41	Wrestlingworth	...	5
Northill	...	...	4	Sandy	...	3
Blunham	...	...	5	Stotfold	...	9
Shefford	..	...	29	Henlow	...	2
Clifton	...	...	6	Meppershall	...	1

Whenever a house is inspected and is found to be unfit for human habitation, the attention of the Medical Officer of Health is called to the same with a view to a representation being made to the Council and a closing order obtained.

During the year 10 houses were represented and closing orders obtained in 8 instances.

## New Buildings.

Plans deposited and approved by the Council	...	...	...	...	67
New dwelling-houses erected	...	...	...	...	58
Additions to existing dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	10
Village Hall Erected—Blunham	...	...	...	...	1
Workshops erected	...	...	...	...	1
Motor Garages erected	...	...	...	...	7
New W.C. apartments erected	...	...	...	...	9
Additions to Factories	...	...	...	...	2
Other buildings	...	...	...	...	13

In connection with 58 houses erected, 53 qualified for the grant of subsidy under the Housing Acts of 1923 and 1924.

In November last your Council considered the question of the continuance of the subsidy and decided not to grant any further applications.

The parishes in which the houses were built are as follows :—

Arlesey ... ..	12	Potton ... ..	2
Blunham ... ..	1	Sandy ... ..	15
Clifton ... ..	3	Shefford ... ..	1
Langford .. ...	2	Stotfold ... ..	16
Meppershall ... ..	1	Wrestlingworth ... ..	1
Northill (Caldecote)	4		

At the close of the year 14 new dwelling-houses were in course of erection.

During the year 649 visits were made to new buildings in progress, in order to see that the Council's Byelaws and the Regulations made under the Housing Acts were being observed.

## DAIRIES & COWSHEDS.

At the end of the year there were 90 persons registered as dairymen in the district, 82 of these being cowkeepers who have their cowsheds in the district and the remaining 8 being purveyors of milk only, who obtain their supplies from local cowkeepers.

9 persons were registered during the year, and 13 discontinued business.

The parishes in which the premises are situated are as follows :—

Astwick ... ..	1	Henlow ... ..	3	Stondon ... ..	1
Arlesey ... ..	10	Langford ... ..	7	Stotfold ... ..	8
Blunham ... ..	1	Meppershall ... ..	1	Southill .. ...	5
Clifton ... ..	7	Mogerhanger ... ..	6	Sutton ... ..	2
Campton ... ..	1	Northill ... ..	5	Tempsford ... ..	8
Cockayne Hatley ... ..	2	Potton ... ..	3	Warden ... ..	8
Dunton ... ..	2	Sandy ... ..	8	Wrestlingworth ... ..	3
Everton ... ..	1	Shefford ... ..	3		

## Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act 1915.

### Milk and Dairies Order of 1926.

The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act 1915 which was postponed on account of the war, came into operation during the year.

The Milk and Dairies Order, made by the Minister of Health under the above Act came into force on October 1st, 1926, and aims at securing greater cleanliness in the production and handling of the milk supply, and the protection of milk against infection.

Registration of all persons carrying on the business of Cowkeepers, Dairymen or Purveyors of milk has been carried out in this district for many years and with a very few exceptions all dairy premises are provided with a proper supply of wholesome water. The whole of the cowsheds and dairies are in a fairly satisfactory condition with regard to lighting, ventilation and drainage, and every cowshed floor is paved with concrete or other suitable material.

Since the Order came into force all the registered premises have been inspected and special attention has been given with regard to cleanliness during the milking of the cows.

A sediment tester has been obtained and is often found to be of great use in bringing to the notice of the cowkeeper and the dirty milker the need of greater cleanliness.

One of the greatest difficulties found is that of keeping the immediate surroundings and approaches to the cowsheds clean and free from accumulations of manure.

A number of premises have in this respect been improved during the year.

There are no persons in the district licensed for the sale of "Certified," "Grade A" or "Pasteurised" Milk.

## Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924.

There are in the Rural District 24 slaughterhouses of which 11 are registered, having been in use previous to the passing of the Public Health 1875, and 13 are licensed, the licences being renewed annually. One Knacker's Slaughterhouse is also licensed annually.

Three registered slaughter-houses were removed from the register during the year as the use of the premises had been discontinued for slaughtering for a considerable period, and the premises were also not suitable for the purpose.

Four other licences were not renewed owing to the premises not now being used for slaughtering.

Considerable time has been given to the inspection of carcasses of animals slaughtered for food, no less than 1053 visits having been made to slaughter-houses and foodshops for this purpose, but it is not possible for an inspection to be made of all animals slaughtered, as this would often entail two or three visits to one parish in a day.

The Regulations as to giving of notice of the time of slaughter has been fairly well observed so far as I am able to ascertain, but it has been necessary in a few instances to caution butchers where it has been found the required notice has not been given.

During the year the following carcasses have been inspected :—

Oxen 561, Sheep 484, Pigs 940, Calves 31, Goats 2.

As a result of these inspections the following diseased or unsound food has been destroyed or otherwise disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption :—

Carcases of Beef including offal (Tuberculosis)	...	960 lbs.	2
" " " (Dropsical and Pleurisy)	...	340 lbs.	1
Forequarters of Beef (Tuberculosis)...	...	791 lbs.	4
Hindquarters " " " " " "	...	"	2
Beef " " " " " "	...	20 lbs.	
Carcases and offal of Calves (Putrifaction)	...	...	3
" " " (Fevered)	...	...	1
Calves livers " " " " " "	...	...	2
Ox heads " " " " " "	...	...	9
Ox tongues " " " " " "	...	...	13
Ox lungs... " " " " " "	...	...	19
Ox livers... " " " " " "	...	...	18
Ox mesenteric fats " " " " " "	...	...	12
Ox spleens " " " " " "	...	...	6
Ox hearts " " " " " "	...	...	6
Carcase and offal of sheep—Pleurisy and Pneumonia	...	...	1
Carcase and offal of pig—Tuberculosis	...	...	1
" " " Dropsical	...	...	1
" " " Pleurisy and Pneumonia	...	...	1
Forequarters of Pork—Pleurisy	...	50 lbs.	2
Pigs heads " " " " " "	...	...	8
Pigs lungs " " " " " "	...	...	21
Pigs mesenteric fats " " " " " "	...	...	3

### Miscellaneous.

Tinned food, Fruit, Fish, Milk and Corned Beef ... 52 tins.



## Factories and Workshops.

Bakers ... ..	32	Saddlers ... ..	4	Fellmonger & Parchment	
Bootmakers and Repairers	26	Brickmakers ... ..	3	Maker ... ..	1
Carpenters and Plumbers	24	Printers ... ..	3	Brewer ... ..	1
Blacksmiths ... ..	21	Mineral Water Works	3	Laundries ... ..	2
Motor & Cycle Engineers	21	Flour Millers .. ..	3	Cabinet Maker ... ..	1
Dressmakers & Milliners	9	Stonemasons . . . .	2	Tinsmith ... ..	1
Wheelwrights ... ..	10	Malt Makers .. ..	2	Cement Works ... ..	1
Tailors ... ..	8	Glove Making ... ..	1	Engineering ... ..	1

1 notice was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories with respect to insufficient sanitary arrangements and this was satisfactorily dealt with.

### Outworkers.

Two lists of outworkers were received, containing the names of 29 persons residing in the district. The premises where work was carried on were inspected and in each case found satisfactory.

## Potton Sewerage and Drainage.

The engines at the pumping station have been a source of considerable trouble during the year and constant attention has been necessary in order to keep them running.

It was necessary to have a new liner and piston fitted to both engines, but the obsolete type of engine caused a good deal of delay in obtaining these. These engines have always been very difficult to start.

At the close of the year the question of installing a new engine was being considered.

During the year the engines and pumps have worked on an average of 5 hours, 10 minutes per day.

A number of blockages have occurred in the sewers and it is necessary to periodically remove the silt which is constantly being deposited in the length of sewer across the meadows adjoining the Sewage Works. The question of relaying a portion of this was considered by the Committee but was deferred for a time.

Repairs have been carried out to the settling tanks at the works and the walls strengthened by the construction of four buttresses.

A supply of water from the mains of the Biggleswade Water Board has been laid on to the works.

The Brussels sprouts growing on the Sewage Farm were sold by auction and realised the sum of £90 less commission and expenses of £7-10-0. An endeavour was made to sell the osiers growing on the land surrounding the works, but as a sale could not be affected the osiers were cut and made use of by the Parish Council in strengthening the banks of the brook which was then being cleaned out.

Following upon an inspection made last year of the sanitary arrangements of the premises within the drainage area the following works have been carried out.

Privies converted to Water Closets	...	...	11
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets	...	...	14
Flushing cisterns provided to existing W.C.'s	...	...	61

## Sandy Sewerage and Drainage.

Practically all the houses within the drainage area have now been connected up to the new sewers.

The engines and pumps have worked on an average of 6 hours, 16 minutes per day and the whole of the plant has been maintained in good condition by the attendant in charge. The final effluent from the works continues to be satisfactory.

The tanks have been desludged when necessary and there has been no difficulty in disposing of the sludge at 1/- per load, the purchaser removing it from the sludge lagoons.

An extension was made to the sewer in Laburnham Road, for a distance of 50 yards in order to receive the drainage of a new house.



# Rainfall.

The following table shows the rainfall measured in the rain gauge at the Sandy Sewage Works during the year.

Month				Month			
Amount of Rain in inches.				Amount of Rain in inches.			
January	...	...	1.60	July	...	...	2.41
February	...	...	2.73	August	...	...	1.23
March	...	...	.29	September	...	...	2.14
April	...	...	3.59	October	...	...	1.92
May	...	...	1.85	November	...	...	2.69
June	...	...	1.85	December	...	...	.36
				Total			
				...			
				22.66			

## Public Scavenging Work.

Scavenging schemes for the removal of the household refuse and the emptying of earth closets, privies, dumbwells, &c. are in operation in the parishes of Arlesey, Henlow, Langford, Potton, Sandy and Shefford.

In each parish the work is carried out by contract and generally speaking has been fairly satisfactory.

In three parishes, viz : Sandy, Potton and Langford, suitable tips are provided by the Parochial Committees for the depositing of the refuse, in the other parishes the Contractors provide their own tips.

The following is a summary of the scavenging work carried out by the Contractors during the year :

Parish.	Total No. of Visits.	Ashpits Emptied	Ashboxes Emptied	Privies Emptied	Cess-pools Emptied	Pail Closets Emptied	Loads Rmd.	Av'ge cost	
								per visit	per load
Arlesey	49731	7	18750	27	61	27903	872	1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	9/2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Henlow	38442	3	12240	26	38	23610	519	<sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	4/9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Langford	36244	2	12685	32	33	23484	532	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	7/7
Shefford	26211	—	8202	4	11	17096	504	1d.	4/4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Sandy	56786	49	46690	58	36	15070	1394	1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	6/7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Potton	36753	12	23449	33	275	11315	1149	1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	4/3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>

## Petroleum Acts 1871 to 1926.

The Petroleum Act of 1926 which came into force in August last amended the Acts of 1871 and 1879, and made certain changes in the law relating to the storage and conveyance of petroleum spirit and also fixed a scale of fees payable in respect of licences issued or renewed by a local authority.

Under this Act in order to ensure that the conditions attached to the licence are brought to the knowledge of all persons employed on the premises, the occupier is required to post up in a suitable position, a notice setting out the conditions and it is made an offence for any person to pull down injure or deface such notice.

With each new licence issued, a poster containing the conditions of the licence was sent to the licensee for posting up on the premises.

## Scale of Fees.

In the past your Council have charged a fee of 5/- for each licence or renewal, under the new Act the fees fixed are as follows :

Fee payable per annum.			
Not exceeding 100 gallons	...	5/-	From 5000 to 10000 gallons ... £2
From 100 to 500 "	...	10/-	" 10000 to 20000 " ... £3
" 500 to 1000 "	...	15/-	" 20000 to 50000 " ... £4
" 1000 to 5000 "	...	£1	Exceeding 50,000 gallons ... £5

Section 4 of the Act empowers the Officer of the Local Authority to inspect any premises where petroleum spirit is kept for the purpose of trade or industry, and under the Act all persons who keep petrol for the purposes of trade or industry must be licensed by the local authority and conform with the requirements.

Occupiers of licensed premises are required to give notice to the Home Office of accidents caused by explosion or fire, involving petroleum spirit on the licensed premises.

New Regulations have also been made under the Petroleum Act by the Secretary of State and specify the type of vehicle that shall be used for the conveyance of petrol and the condition under which petrol shall be carried, also the precautions that shall be taken during the filling or emptying of a tank wagon.

There are in the Biggleswade Rural District some 46 persons licensed for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and 20 for Carbide of Calcium which comes under the definition of Petroleum, and the following table shows the number of licenses issued and the amount of Petroleum Spirit and Carbide that may be kept in licensed stores :

Licenses renewed for the keeping of Petroleum Spirit	...	37
New licences granted	... ..	9
Licences renewed for the keeping of Carbide of Calcium	...	19
New licences granted	... ..	1

Quantity of Petroleum Spirit which may be kept in licensed stores—18,360 galls.

Quantity of Carbide of Calcium which may be kept in licensed stores—1 ton 6 cwt.

In connection with the Petroleum Stores 9 steel under-ground tanks fitted with pumps have been installed.

## Legal Proceedings.

It was necessary to institute legal proceedings against one owner, for failing to comply with Statutory Notices to abate certain nuisances, and an order was made by the Magistrates for the work to be carried out, which was done within the time specified.

## Conclusion.

I would again thank your Council for the loyal support given to me during the year in the carrying out of my varied duties. I think a perusal of this report will show that considerable work has been done with a view to improving the sanitary condition of the district and also in endeavouring to safeguard the food supply.

I would also take this opportunity of thanking your Clerk (Mr. Chaundler) for his continued interest and valuable advice in connection with the sanitary work of the district.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. M. ROBINSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.